



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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JANUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Commercial red meat production during January 2006 totaled 600,000 pounds, the same as last year. This is 21 percent below the December 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 863,000 pounds live weight, down slightly from January 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 900 head, the same as the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,006 pounds, was up 64 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 143,000 pounds live weight, down 7 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 272 pounds, was up 13 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES -- Commercial red meat production totaled 3.89 billion pounds in January, up 7 percent from the 3.65 billion pounds produced in January 2005.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 5 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.5 million pounds, 6 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 55,700 head, down 18 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was 39 pounds above last year, at 368 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.92 million head, 5 percent above January 2005. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 273 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.2 million pounds, was up 12 percent from January 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 223,700 head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from January a year ago.

January 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

January 2006 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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